

Applicant: Blodgett Jr.
Serial No.: 10/720,324

PATENT
Atty. Docket: 18393-301

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Official Action mailed March 1, 2005. In this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 15, and 17 are amended and claims 2-6, 9-14, 16 and 19 are unchanged. Of these claims, claims 1, 7, and 14 are independent. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19 shall be pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 7 are objected to because of informalities, and claims 15 and 17 have been rejected for indefiniteness but have been indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome these rejections. For the reasons set forth below, these objections and rejections are hereby traversed. The applicants hereby request reconsideration of these claims in view of the reasons set forth below.

I. ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-7, 9-14, 16 and 19. The Applicant acknowledges the allowance of these claims and thanks the Examiner for this indication.

II. CLAIM INFORMALITIES

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1 and 7 are missing semi-colons. Both claims have been amended to include semi-colons as indicated by the Examiner.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. SECTION 112

The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph due to concerns with antecedent basis. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 15 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections as set forth in the Official Action.

The Applicant acknowledges the allowability of the subject matter of these claims and thanks the Examiner for the indication.

In this respect, claim 15 has been amended to include "a" instead of "the" before "performance of a manual operation".

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Claim 17 has been amended to include "the" instead of "a" before "self-contained brake".

CONCLUSION

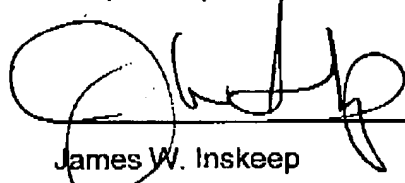
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that pending claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19 are now in condition for allowance. Hence an indication of allowability is hereby requested.

If for any reason direct communication with Applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is cordially urged to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-2809.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 25, 2005


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